



# CIPHER

Volume 6

By Minako Narita



## Siva & Cipher

Siva Utsal & Cipher (Ray) Mermaid twin brothers made famous by their childhood acting success. Now, they share not just a face, but a single identity. Trading off attending school and acting auditions, it is nearly impossible to tell them apart. Or is it?

## Anise



Schoolmate and good friend of Siva Utsal and Cipher (Ray). She was on the verge of taking her relationship with Cipher to a romantic level but it didn't quite work out. Now it seems that they are both growing increasingly distant to her as they enter a new phase of their lives.

## Dana



An actress working on a movie set with Cipher (Ray) who she thinks is Siva Utsal. She is also a very talented singer and often serenades the neighborhood with her beautiful voice. One of many siblings.



## Mrs. Jackson (aka Big Mamma)

Dana's mother. Runs the family business, the neighborhood diner famous for good food and friendly service. Siva Utsal has chosen to reveal the town's life story to her.



WHEN  
I FELT  
LIKE IT  
I'D  
TREAT  
HIM  
COLDLY

WHEN  
I FELT  
LIKE IT  
I'D  
TREAT  
HIM  
COLDLY



WHEN  
I FELT  
LIKE IT  
I'D  
TREAT  
HIM  
COLDLY



THAT  
MOMENT  
I  
COULD  
FEEL  
HE  
WAS  
ABOUT  
TO  
CRY. I'D  
FEEL  
SATISFIED



WHEN  
I FELT  
LIKE IT  
I'D  
TREAT  
HIM  
COLDLY

WHEN  
I FELT  
LIKE IT  
I'D  
TREAT  
HIM  
COLDLY

WHEN  
I FELT  
LIKE IT  
I'D  
TREAT  
HIM  
COLDLY

AND  
WATCH 'EM  
UNITE LATE  
INTO  
THE NIGHT.

WE'D HEAR  
THE SAME OLD  
TRAIN SONG  
AFTER WE'D  
HORN HOLES  
IN THEM.

WITH  
NO ADULTS  
AROUND  
TO  
JUDGE  
US OR  
CONTROL  
US...



THAT'S  
ENOUGH  
FOR  
TODAY.

BOY,

DRIVING  
BACKING  
DRIVING CUT  
WITH  
ONE'S...

...IT  
WAS  
THE FIRST  
TIME WE  
EXPERIENCED  
COMPLETE  
FREEDOM.





WHY  
DID YOU  
NEED IT  
SO BAD?

SOME-  
THING'S  
WRONG  
WITH  
YOU



THEN  
HOW  
ABOUT  
A  
JAVE

HEY  
JAVE!



DON'T  
CALL IT  
THAT. CALL  
IT A  
JONT!



EVER  
ISN'T  
LIQUOR

DON'T  
BE A  
SMART-  
ASS

YOU  
JUST  
GET  
BACK  
FROM  
DRINKING  
WHISKY



I  
HATE  
SLEEPING  
WELL  
RECENTLY

I WANT  
TO SLEEP  
LIKE I'M  
DEAD AND  
WAKE UP  
REFRESHED.



**SLAM**



THAT'S  
EASY  
ENOUGH

STAY  
UP LATE  
FOR A  
COUPLE  
OF  
DAYS

I LIKED  
MANAGING  
MY OWN  
LIFE.

I DIDN'T  
OWNED  
ANYTHING.

IT WAS EASY TO  
GET ALONG AT  
THE HIGH SCHOOL.  
HE HAD JUST  
STARTED  
ATTENDING.

EVERYONE  
THESE PLANNED  
TO MAKE  
THEIR LIVING OFF  
THEIR FACE OR  
THEIR FINGER OR  
LEARN SO THERE  
WERE ALMOST  
NONE  
ANY FIGHTS.

IT WAS  
NOT THE  
A LOT BATED,  
BUT YOU COULD  
STILL GET  
DRUGS RIGHT  
ACROSS  
THE STREET.

OUR  
APARTMENT  
WAS JUST  
OFF  
MEXICO A.

BUT I  
DIDN'T DO  
ANYTHING  
MORE THAN  
TRY  
MARIJUANA



YOUR  
BUDDY  
OVER  
THERE  
LOOKS  
A  
LITTLE  
FUNKY.

HEY.

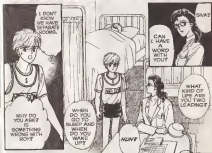
IT FIRST  
WENT  
TOGETHER  
WITH ME  
TO  
SCHOOL.



HE SAID  
HE  
HADN'T  
BEEN  
SLEEPING  
MUCH  
RECENT.

YEAH.





PET SHOP BOYS



THAT  
WAS  
JEAN  
ROBERTSON  
FROM  
NEW YORK  
CALLED  
LIFE.



HENRY  
 BEEN  
 READING  
 UP LATE  
 THAT  
 ALL



Want to see  
more?





I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANY DREAMS.



IF WE MET, I'D KILL HER.

YEAH.



YOU STAYED UP LATE AT NIGHTS LIKE I SAID, RIGHT?

YEAH.

THEN TELL ME WHY IN DETAIL.



I DREAM ABOUT DAD... THAT TIME.

RECENTLY, WHENEVER I DREAM, IT'S ABOUT THE MOUNTAIN.



IT'S LIKE IN REALITY, I SENT HIM ON HIS WAY.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?



BUT HE SAYS, "I'LL BE FINE. I WON'T LOSE." AND SO FOR A MOMENT I'M CONFUSED.

I KNOW IF HE CLIMBS, HE'LL DIE. SO I TRY TO STOP HIM.



EVERY  
TIME I HAVE  
THAT DREAM...

TIME  
AFTER  
TIME...



AND  
EVERY TIME,  
VARIOUS  
OBSTACLES  
APPEAR.

I  
CAN  
NEVER  
STOP  
IT.

IN  
THE END,  
HE  
DIES.



I'M  
THINKING  
THAT IF I  
DON'T LET  
HIM GO,  
HE'LL  
LOVE.

I DON'T  
WANT TO  
WASTE HIS  
TIME, TIME,  
AND I  
DON'T  
WANT TO  
THINK IT  
OTHER.



ANYWAY, GET  
A LOT OF  
SLEEP  
TODAY.

EVENTUALLY,  
YOU'LL STOP  
HAVING  
THAT DREAM.

YOU  
STILL  
HAVEN'T  
SLEPT  
ENOUGH,  
HAVE YOU?



HEAR  
IT.

I JUST  
CAN'T  
UNDERSTAND  
IT.



SO MUCH  
THAT I  
DIED.

I  
DON'T  
NOTICE  
A  
THING

OTHER  
THAN  
THE ORB. I  
NOTHING  
SEEMED TO  
CHANGE  
ABOUT ANY  
OF THE  
OUTSIDE.

SOMETIMES  
HE'D GET  
SO  
DEPRESSSED  
THAT  
HE'D COME  
SLEEP WITH  
ME.





G.M.  
A  
CK

PEOPLE  
ALWAYS  
TOLD US  
THIS.

WE  
COULDN'T  
PLAY  
ROUGH  
OR  
EVERYONE  
LET  
ALONE  
FIGHT.

WE  
MUST  
NEVER  
GET  
HURTED.

WHAT  
IF WE  
HAD  
AN INJURY  
TO OUR FACE  
OR  
SOMEPHASE  
ALSO THAT  
SUCKED IN

AND  
WE'VE GOT  
A JOB  
TOMORROW.

THAT  
WAS THE  
FIRST TIME  
IN MY  
LIFE...

I DON'T  
WANT TO  
KEEP  
THINKING  
ABOUT  
IT.

I WANT  
TO  
FORGET.

THAT  
I'D EVER  
CONSIDERED  
HIT ANY















DON'T  
RUN  
AWAY.  
THE  
CLASS  
GETS  
GRADED  
EVERY  
TIME.

WE'RE  
DOING  
A  
REHEARSAL  
THAT  
GETS  
TAPED  
ON  
VIDEO.



HUNT



WHAT?  
HOW CAN  
I DO FOR  
YOU?

SO  
AS  
"DNA."



OKAY

I'LL  
DO IT



AFTER SCHOOL  
ROY CAME  
HOME  
BURSTING  
WITH  
EXCITEMENT



BOY,  
AM I  
TIGHT?

IT WAS  
A REALLY  
INCREDIBLE  
DAY!

HE  
WENT UP  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
EVERYTHING  
THAT  
HAPPENED  
IN  
SCHOOL.

ONLY IF  
YOU DON'T  
LOWER  
MY  
GRADES.

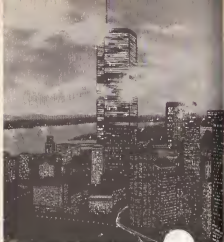
LET  
ME DO  
IT  
AGAIN.

BUT  
IT WAS  
REALLY  
INTEREST-  
ING.

ROY  
DIDN'T  
CARE THAT  
IT WAS  
JUST  
A GAME.

IF IT  
WOULD GET  
HIM INTO  
FIGHT DRAGON  
EVEN A  
LITTLE...

ONCE  
HE  
STARTED  
GOING TO  
SCHOOL,  
AS "ROY,"  
HE TOOK  
CLASSES  
SERIOUSLY.



JLAN  
IS  
TURNING  
INTO  
A  
REAL  
NAG.

AND  
RECENTLY,  
JLAN  
STARTED  
COMING  
BY

OLD  
CALLS  
MORE  
AND  
MORE.

MAYBE SHE'S TRYING TO GET US TO COME BACK.

YOUR BEHAVIOR UP TILL NOW HAS BEEN TERRIBLE.

THAT TRICK WON'T WORK ANY MORE.

TELL HER AGAIN I'LL RUN AWAY!

I WON'T SEE HER NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES SHE COMES!

WE CAN PULL IT OFF.

WHEN "DARYL" IS OUT OF THE HOUSE THE OTHER OF US WON'T ANSWER THE PHONE OR THE INTERCOM.

CAN'T WE JUST POSTEND LIKE YOU SAID BEFORE?

HOLD ON BOY.

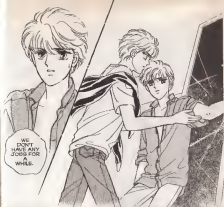
THEN I'LL RUN AWAY FOR REAL!

WELL SHE'LL FIGURE THAT OUT SOON.



WHY?





WE  
DON'T  
HAVE ANY  
JOBS FOR  
A  
WHILE.



THAT'S  
NOT  
THE  
PROBLEM.

SHOOTING  
IS GIVING  
YOU THE  
STRENGTH  
AGAIN.

I'M  
GOT  
TO  
DO  
SOMETHING.

BOY...

IF HE  
COULDN'T  
QUIT  
SOON...

YOU'VE  
GOT  
TO  
STOP  
THAT  
NOW!



NOW  
I FEEL  
WORTHY FOR  
LOVING  
MY ABB  
FOR  
YOU!

IT'S  
ONLY  
JACK!

IF  
NOTHING  
I SAY  
OR DO  
MATTERS  
TO YOU...

GO  
AHEAD  
AND RUN  
AWAY  
FROM  
HOME!

111

NEVER  
AGAIN!



I'M  
SORRY,  
JACK!

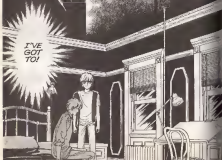
PLEASE  
FORGIVE  
ME!

JACK?





I'LL  
MAKE  
HIM  
QUIT.



I'VE  
GOT  
TO!

AT THAT TIME,  
IT SEEMED LIKE  
ROY WALK TACKLED  
WALTERS AND HE  
COULD GET  
HIS HANDS ON

WALTERS  
AND HE  
COULD GET  
HIS HANDS  
ON

WALTERS  
AND HE  
COULD GET  
HIS HANDS  
ON

WALTERS  
AND HE  
COULD GET  
HIS HANDS  
ON



I'M  
SORRY  
I MADE  
YOU  
WORRY



I'M  
SORRY,  
JACK.

NO DRUGS  
AND  
WHAT'S  
PROTECTING  
YOU  
UP-?



IT'S  
THE  
ONE  
THAT

FOR  
NOW.  
YES.



BUT IF  
I DON'T  
KNOW  
ANYTHING  
PROTECTING  
ME UP-...

...THEN  
I CAN'T  
STAND ON  
MY OWN  
CAN I?



IT'S  
THE  
ONE  
THAT



IT'S  
THE  
ONE  
THAT



IT'S PITIFUL.  
YOU GOTTA  
GET  
TOUGHER!

YOU'VE  
LACK OF  
SELF-  
CONTROL  
IS  
PATHETIC.



YOU'RE  
JUST  
BEING  
WEAK.



YOU'RE  
RUNNING  
AWAY.  
THAT'S  
ALL.



OTHER-  
WORD,  
HOW  
COULD  
YOU KEEP  
DOING  
SOME-  
THING  
YOU KNOW  
IS  
BAD?

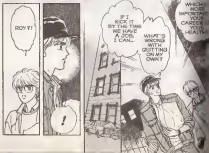


TURN  
LEFT  
TO  
SEE  
YOU  
DO IT.

OH?



I CAN  
OUTP- I  
WANT!





TELL  
HER YOU  
HAVE  
NO IDEA  
WHERE  
"OPHER"  
IS!

JOAN'S  
HERE!  
THAT'S  
HER CAR  
IN FRONT  
OF THE  
BUILDING!



ROY  
VI

I'VE  
GOT TO  
GO FOR  
THE  
MOMENT—  
I'LL COME  
HOME  
LATER

SORRY,  
JOAN



"IT'S TERRIBLE,  
YOU GOT TO  
GET  
TODAY!"



I HAD  
HEARD  
THAT FROM  
ROY'S SECRETARY,  
HE WANTED TO  
LEAVE



YOU HAVE  
GIVEN THEM AN  
IDEA OF HOW  
THE WORLD  
WORKS  
AND THEY  
ARE  
ALIVE.



...HE NEVER  
ENJOYED  
ANY MUSIC  
BEFORE OR  
LATER.

IT  
WAS  
THE  
FIRST  
OF MANY.

THERE  
ARE PLenty  
OF PEOPLE  
EXPERIMENTAL  
WITH DRUGS.  
MOST OF THEM  
GIVE IT UP  
BEFORE THEY  
BECOME  
ADDICTED.

AND WHY  
DON'T  
ANY MORE.

EVEN  
WITHOUT  
KNOWING  
ABOUT  
THEY WILL  
PROBABLY  
GIVE UP  
ON  
THEY OWN.





IF  
WE'RE  
LUCKY  
...

THINGS  
WON'T  
GO  
DOWN  
LIKE  
THAT.



IT'S  
NOT  
LUCKY

STAY  
IN FRONT  
YOU'LL BE  
SAFER



WOULD  
BE SOMEONE  
WHO WOULD  
KNOW HOW TO  
"STAY"

OH...

WELL  
LEAF

OH,  
SORRY,  
I JUST  
SPACED  
FOR  
A SECOND.

LEAF  
FROM THE  
AVENUE C  
LOBBY  
STORY? SHE  
KNEW  
ARCHER



CAN YOU GET  
POSSIBLE  
HEARD?

CROWD  
IS HERE  
NOW, BUT HE'S  
ALREADY  
REALLY  
BIG.



AND  
NOT ONLY  
HOLDING  
MAYBE  
HEARD?

NO...



SLAM



AVENUE  
100...

THAT IS  
ACTU  
FAR  
FROM  
HERE.



Hey  
Boy!





WHEN THE POLICE  
SAID THE GUY  
DIED  
AND BECAUSE A FIVE  
ALCOHOLIC A  
LITTLE DRINK AND  
WASN'T A  
THE GUY  
DRIVING UP IT  
WASN'T A  
TO DRINK  
HE ALSO GOT TO  
SEE THE FIRST  
FROM CUBAN  
ABOUT OF VINE  
A LITTLE BIT  
WELL, MY JURY  
TO SEE THAT  
ALL THOSE GUY  
AGAIN IT'S HARD  
TO KEEP UP  
FROM KING OF  
STONERS  
WHICH YOU GOT TO  
BE THE GUY  
IT IS STONERS  
JUST DRINK  
YOUR LET YOUR

Comic Again  
1992



EVERY-  
ONE  
AROUND  
HERE  
HAD IT  
BEFORE  
UP.

JUST  
LIKE HE  
AGREED, ROY  
HAD SOME  
WASN'T  
HE WENT  
OUT.

HE ONLY  
USED THE NAME  
CUBAN  
WHEN HE WENT  
OUT TOGETHER,  
OR WHEN HE  
WAS DOING  
SOMETHING WITH  
DOLLO.



TAKE  
THIS  
WITH  
YOU.

HEY,  
CAPTAIN  
ON  
IS IT  
SWAT?



THIS  
PLACE ISN'T  
AS JAPANESE  
AS  
I THOUGHT  
I WOULD  
BE.

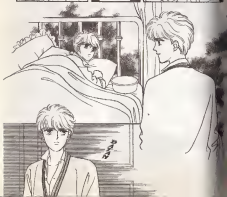
BUT I'M  
SUCKERED  
ON.



COME  
ON IN,  
SWAT!

OH,  
THERE  
YOU  
ARE!







I  
COULDN'T  
SAY  
ANYTHING

THIS  
TIME, I'LL  
REALLY  
QUIT.



I'LL  
QUIT  
JAMES



IT  
WAS  
FRIGHTENING

BUT I  
COULDN'T  
PULL MYSELF  
FREE FROM  
SOMETHING  
SO CLOSE  
TO ME

IF HE  
LOVES  
ME...



BUT HOW  
WAS  
I GOING TO  
GET HIM  
TO  
A DOCTOR?

ONCE  
YOU'RE  
AN ADULT,  
EVEN IF  
YOU DON'T  
FEEL IT,  
IT'S  
NOT  
EASY.

FOR  
THE FIRST  
TIME, I FELT  
LIKE I  
UNDERSTOOD  
HOW RYU FELT  
WHEN HE  
GOT  
DISEASE.

WORRY  
ABOUT  
THE  
WORLD.

IT'S  
MORE  
LIKE  
FEAR.



BUT  
FOR  
ME...

I NO  
LONGER HAD  
THE LUXURY  
OF  
TRYING TO  
UNDERSTAND  
HIS  
FEELINGS.



YOU  
DON'T  
LOOK  
OKAY!

WHAT  
IS  
THE  
PROBLEM?

ORU!

I  
SAID  
I'M  
OKAY.

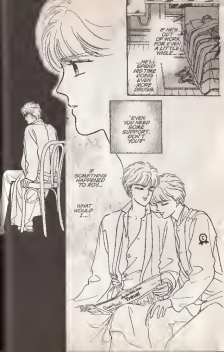
WAS  
HE  
IN  
A  
FIGHT?  
OR  
DID  
HE  
GET  
SHOT  
OR  
LIPP?

YOU  
MAY  
HAVE  
BEEN  
A  
LITTLE  
BIT  
SCARED  
BY  
THE  
ONE  
WHO  
KILLED  
YOUR  
FATHER.

THE  
FUCKING  
THUNDERBOLTS  
AREN'T  
THAT  
BAD.

NOW  
HE  
CAN'T  
EVER  
WORK!

SAIT  
IN  
THE  
MIDDLE  
OF  
THE  
FOUR  
HEADS.



IF ANY  
OUT  
OF WORK  
FOR EVEN  
A LITTLE  
WHILE...

MY  
SAND  
AND TIME  
DOES  
EVER  
MY  
SAND

"EVER  
YOU  
SOME  
SUPPORT  
DON'T  
YOU"

IF  
SOMETHING  
HAPPENED  
TO YOU...

HAVE  
WILL  
I...





...WANT TO  
OUT-DRINK  
THAT  
DAD?

YOU  
REALLY  
...

BEYOND  
ALL OF A  
SUDDEN...

AND  
THEN  
GO STAY  
SOME-  
PLACE  
ELSE  
FOR A  
WEEK.

I  
WANT  
YOU  
TO  
TAKE  
THAT  
KEY.



YEAH.

IT'LL BE  
TUGH, BUT  
I THINK I CAN  
MAKE IT PAST  
THE FIRST  
HURDLE.



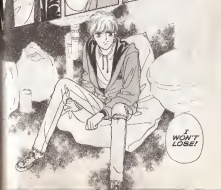


I DON'T WANT YOU  
TO SEE  
ME LIKE  
THIS.

I'LL BE ALL  
RIGHT  
ALONE.



THEN  
I'M  
STAYING  
HERE!



I  
WON'T  
LOSE!



ROY!









WELL  
YOU  
MADE  
AN  
OOPS  
THING



YOU  
THREW  
UP  
AGAIN

I STARTED  
FEELING  
A LOT BETTER  
YESTERDAY,  
BUT NOW I'M  
OUT  
OF FOOD



JACKY

YOU  
IDHOTT?

DO  
YOU HAVE  
ANY  
IDEA HOW  
MUCH I  
WORRIED  
ABOUT  
YOU?

IF  
I KICK,  
IT'S ALL  
THANKS  
TO YOU

THAT'S  
NOT  
TRUE

OH,  
CUT THE  
BULL



BEHOLD  
YOU ARE  
MAKING UP  
YOUR MIND  
TO GET  
BETTER..

I'M LIKE  
A COMPLETE  
FOOL  
WORRYING  
ABOUT ALL  
THIS





REALLY  
NOTHING  
DONE.



WE KEPT  
SHARING  
AN  
IDENTITY.



HE COULD  
STILL BE  
CHILDISH...  
BUT HE HAD  
NEVER THAT  
WEAK  
AGAIN.

MY HAND  
AGAINST  
IT, BUT I  
PUSHED ON.



SINCE HE  
HAD ALREADY  
BEEN KICKED  
OUT, MY  
KEPT GOING  
TO SCHOOL  
AND PLAYING  
AS "NORMAL."

I  
PROBABLY  
JUST WANT  
TO KEEP  
CONTROL  
OF HIM.



IT  
MIGHT  
JUST  
BE FOR HIS  
SAKE.

WAS  
I GOING  
TO BE  
ABLE TO...

INFORM  
MOM...

WHEN  
MY  
FAMILY  
MET A  
"NORMAL  
GOME-  
ONE"

JEAN  
HASN'T  
COME  
AROUND  
RECENTLY



...WAS I  
MY  
POSITION  
AND KNOWING  
ONE IN HIS  
HEART?





THE  
LIFE HE  
GIVING TO  
AN END  
BOOK



AND  
THE RAIN  
HAD  
STARTED  
FOR A NEW  
ADVENT



Scene 7: LIGHT AND SHADE  
—The End